

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)"b."

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 234.6, the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 75, "Conditions of Eligibility," Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment provides for "continuous eligibility" for children under the age of 19 who are eligible for Medicaid under the Family Medical Assistance Program (FMAP), the Child Medical Assistance Program (CMAP), or the Mothers and Children (MAC) Program, as directed by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2539, section 3. Once the child is determined eligible for Medicaid under one of these coverage groups, the child's eligibility will continue for up to 12 months without regard to changes in family income or household composition that might make the household ineligible for Medicaid. Eligibility may end before 12 months have elapsed due to the annual eligibility review or because the child reaches the age of 19.

This strategy is intended to promote continuity of health care coverage for children. Studies show that children with gaps in health care coverage have less access to services than do those with continuous coverage.

This amendment does not provide for waivers in specified situations because continued coverage is a benefit to the children affected. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department's general rule on exceptions at 441-1.8(17A,217).

This amendment was also Adopted and Filed Emergency and is published herein as **ARC 6884B**. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comment on that submission, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendment on or before July 23, 2008. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Analysis and Appeals, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 249A.3 as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2539.